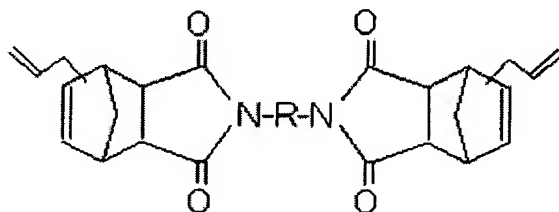


REMARKS

Favorable consideration and allowance are respectfully requested for claims 1-13 in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

The rejection of claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Akiyama (EP 0 937 740) is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-6 relate to a coated glass fiber for reinforcing rubber and claim 7 relates to a coating solution for covering a glass fiber. Claims 1-7 all require bisallylnadiimide, which is represented by the following formula,

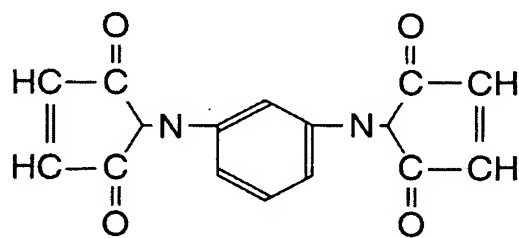


(also see the three structural formulas provided on page 6 of the specification). In claim 1, bisallylnadiimide is contained in the second coating solution (see step (d) of claim 1). This bisallylnadiimide (see page 5, lines 12-20 of the specification) does not function as a vulcanization assistant (vulcanization accelerator), but functions as an adhesive (bonding agent). During drying the second precursory layer in step (f) of claim 1, bisallylnadiimide itself is polymerized. Therefore, the second coating layer, which contains the polymerized or cured bisallylnadiimide, becomes hard, and the resulting coated glass fiber is substantially improved in tensile strength.

In contrast with the claimed invention, the treating material of Akiyama (see the last five lines of the Abstract of Akiyama) for forming a second coating

layer, never contains bisallylnadiimide as is presently claimed. The treating material of Akiyama contains one member selected from (a) a silane coupling agent, (b) a maleimide type vulcanization assistant and (c) a dimethacrylate type vulcanization assistant. However, this one member itself is never polymerized. Accordingly, the second coating layer of the claimed invention is materially different from that of Akiyama.

Since bisallylnadiimide itself is polymerized in the second coating layer of the claimed invention, the resulting coated glass fiber of the claimed invention is much higher in tensile strength than that of Akiyama. One can understand from the results of Table 1 on page 10 of the specification that Example 1 using bisallylnadiimide is far superior to Comparative Example 3 using N-N'-(m-phenylene)dimalimide, which is represented by the following formula,



This is a maleimide type vulcanization assistant such as that taught by Akiyama (see paragraph [0024] of Akiyama).

Furthermore, the use of (a) the silane coupling agent as the one member in Akiyama makes the resulting second coating layer naturally contain silicon. In contrast, the second coating layer of the presently claimed invention does not contain silicon. The maleimide type or the dimethacrylate type vulcanization

assistant as the one member in Akiyama serves as a vulcanization assistant to help vulcanization of H-NBR rubber (see [0001] of Akiyama).

Thus, Akiyama fails to teach a bisallylnadiimide-containing coated glass fiber (and coating solution) as is presently claimed. Accordingly, the presently claimed coated glass fiber 1 and the coating solution of claim 7 are substantially and materially different from those of Akiyama. Therefore, the 102(b) rejection against claims 1-7 cannot be properly maintained. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

The rejection of claims 8-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Akiyama (EP 0 937 740) is respectfully traversed.

As explained above, bisallylnadiimide is substantially different in chemical structure from the maleimide compound (e.g., N,N-m-phenylenedimaleimide) taught by Akiyama. Akiyama fails to teach using bisallylnadiimide and provides no suggestion or other motivation to a person of skill in the art to try to use bisallylnadiimide instead of Akiyama's maleimide compound.

Further, the use of bisallylnadiimide results in a substantial and material difference in the final product (i.e., the coated glass fiber), when compared with the use of maleimide as taught by Akiyama. These differences are described above, and notably include a significant increase in tensile strength when bisallylnadiimide is used. On the present record there is no teaching or

suggestion that one might achieve a stronger product by using bisallylnadiimide. Accordingly, this strength increase is an unforeseen and unexpected result.

In view of the foregoing, especially the failure of Akiyama to teach or suggest the presently claimed methods, the obviousness rejection cannot be properly maintained. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

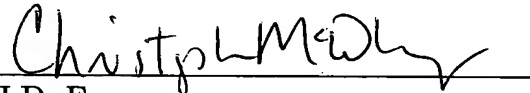
In view of the foregoing, the application is respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance, and prompt favorable action thereon is earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #038788.53188US).

Respectfully submitted,

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